

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims (with additions underlined and deletions struck through) will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- DI
- 1-23. (Canceled).
24. (Currently amended) A stencil comprising a metallic central body having one or more apertures formed through the stencil thickness to define a pattern for printing solder on a substrate, said metallic central body of said stencil defined by four peripheral edges, wherein each of said four peripheral edges of said stencil is provided with a plurality of receiving apertures which define a plurality of elongated slots separated by a plurality of elongated strips, said elongated slots and said elongated strips being of substantially the same width.
25. (Previously added) The stencil of claim 24, wherein opposing edges of the central body are of equal length.
26. (Previously added) The stencil of claim 24, wherein the central body comprises a stencil foil comprising a thin metallic sheet.
27. (Previously added) The stencil of claim 24, wherein the four peripheral edges each include more than two receiving apertures.
28. (Canceled).
29. (Previously amended) The stencil of claim 30, wherein opposing edges of the central body are of equal length.
30. (Previously amended) A stencil comprising a metallic sheet having one or more apertures formed through the thickness of the metallic sheet to define a pattern for printing solder

on a substrate, the metallic sheet having four peripheral edges, and the metallic sheet defining more than two receiving apertures along each peripheral edge.

- Cond
D1*
31. (Previously added) The stencil of claim 30, wherein the four peripheral edges each include more than twenty receiving apertures.
 32. (Previously added) The stencil of claim 31, wherein the receiving apertures are in the form of elongated slots separated by elongated strips.
 33. (Previously added) The stencil of claim 32, wherein the elongated slots and the elongated strips are of substantially the same width.
-